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HOUSE BILL 2385

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives D. Schmidt, Foreman, Appelwick, Thompson, Radcliff, Hargrove, Sheahan, Dyer, Keiser, Chappell, Linville, Crouse, Scheuerman, Pennington, Honeyford, Ballasiotes, Buck, Koster, Veloria, Tokuda, Patterson, Cooke, Sheldon, Campbell, Huff, Quall, Clements, Mason, Backlund, Elliot, Dellwo, Murray, Hickel, Rust, Wolfe, Schoesler, Basich, Johnson, Chopp, Smith, Hymes, McMorris, Carlson, Morris, McMahan, Mitchell, Kessler and Benton

Read first time 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to petitions to be filed with government; amending  
2 RCW 29.79.090, 29.79.100, 29.79.110, and 29.79.490; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 42.17 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.79.090 and 1982 c 116 s 9 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) Petitions for proposing measures for submission to the  
8 legislature at its next regular session, shall be substantially in the  
9 following form:

10 "WARNING

11 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her  
12 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this  
13 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false  
14 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or  
15 both.



1 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS  
2 PETITION.

3 Signatures are being gathered by ..... (legibly  
4 print the name of the signature gatherer), address:  
5 ..... (legibly print the signature gatherer's  
6 address), signature ..... (signature gatherer's  
7 signature)."

8 This statement does not have to appear on a petition for the same  
9 initiative measure if compensation, pay, or other consideration is not  
10 provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures  
11 on that particular petition.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.79.100 and 1982 c 116 s 10 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 (1) Petitions for proposing measures for submission to the people  
15 for their approval or rejection at the next ensuing general election,  
16 shall be substantially in the following form:

17 "WARNING

18 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her  
19 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this  
20 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false  
21 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or  
22 both.

23 INITIATIVE PETITION FOR  
24 SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE

25 To the Honorable . . . . ., Secretary of State of the State of  
26 Washington:

27 We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of  
28 Washington, respectfully direct that the proposed measure known as  
29 Initiative Measure No. . . . ., entitled (here insert the established  
30 ballot title of the measure), a full, true and correct copy of which is  
31 printed on the reverse side of this petition, be submitted to the legal  
32 voters of the State of Washington for their approval or rejection at  
33 the general election to be held on the . . . . . day of November,  
34 19. . .; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally  
35 signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington, in







1 (3) Gives or offers any consideration or gratuity to any person to  
2 induce him or her to sign or not to sign or to vote for or against any  
3 initiative or referendum measure; or

4 (4) Interferes with or attempts to interfere with the right of any  
5 voter to sign or not to sign an initiative or referendum petition or  
6 with the right to vote for or against an initiative or referendum  
7 measure by threats, intimidation, or any other corrupt means or  
8 practice; or

9 (5) Receives, handles, distributes, pays out, or gives away,  
10 directly or indirectly, money or any other thing of value contributed  
11 by or received from any person, firm, association, or corporation whose  
12 residence or principal office is, or the majority of whose members or  
13 stockholders have their residence outside, the state of Washington, for  
14 any service rendered for the purpose of aiding in procuring signatures  
15 upon any initiative or referendum petition or for the purpose of aiding  
16 in the adoption or rejection of any initiative or referendum measure:  
17 PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not apply to or prohibit any  
18 activity which is properly reported in accordance with the applicable  
19 provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW; or

20 (6) Circulates, solicits, or procures, or attempts to procure,  
21 signatures upon an initiative or referendum petition that fails to meet  
22 the requirements of RCW 29.79.080, 29.79.090, 29.79.100, or 29.79.110,  
23 including, where applicable, the requirements that: (a) The statement  
24 be included indicating that signature gatherers are being paid or  
25 otherwise receiving consideration to gather signatures; (b) the name of  
26 the group, organization, or person paying for signature gathering be  
27 inserted; and (c) the name, address, and signature of the person who  
28 circulates, solicits, or procures, or attempts to procure, signatures  
29 on the petition be inserted.

30 A gross misdemeanor under this section is punishable to the same  
31 extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
33 to read as follows:

34 In addition to filing monthly periodic reports with the commission,  
35 a political committee that pays or provides consideration,  
36 compensation, gratuities, rewards, or anything of value to persons for  
37 circulating, soliciting, procuring, or obtaining, or attempting to  
38 procure, signatures on a state initiative or referendum petition shall

1 file the reports required under RCW 42.17.080 on the twenty-first day  
2 and seventh day immediately before the date the petitions must be filed  
3 and on the tenth day of the first month after the petitions are filed.

4 The requirement under RCW 42.17.080 on keeping current books of  
5 account also apply to the eight days immediately before the last date  
6 the petitions may be filed for a political committee that pays or  
7 provides consideration, compensation, gratuities, rewards, or anything  
8 of value to persons for circulating, soliciting, procuring, or  
9 obtaining, or attempt to procure, signatures on a state initiative or  
10 referendum petition.

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